Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03060 071052Z

53
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AF-10 DRC-01 /129 W
---------- 019128
R 070940Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 448
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3060

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:; PFOR
SUBJ: ASIAN TABLE-TENNIS MEET: PRG, PATHET LAO, GRUNK AND DPRK REPS

1. PRESS REPORTED THAT DURING MARCH 6 DIET INTERPELLATIONS FONMIN OHIRA STATED FONOFF WOULD TAKE QTE FORWARD-LOOKING UNQTE ATTITUDE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH JUSTICE MINISTRY ON QUESTION OF GIVING VISAS TO PRG, GRUNK, PATHET LAO, AND DPRK TEAMS TO PARTICIPATE IN ASIAN TABLE-TENNIS MEET OPENING IN YOKOHAMA, APRIL 2. OHIRA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT FONOFF ATTITUDE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH JUSTICE MINISTRY WILL BE BASED ON ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP IN SPORTS WORLD. FONOFF SOURCES TOLD PRESS TROUBLESOME PROBLEMS OF NATIONAL FLAGS AND ANTHEMS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO ARISE (I.E. THEY WILL NOT BE USED AT MEET). FONOFF SOURCES ALSO NOTED IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO RECOGNIZE PASSPORTS OF THESE VARIOUS GROUPS (SPECIFICALLY PRG AND GRUNK)
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 03060 071052Z

AND FONOFF THEREFORE THINKING IN TERMS OF ALLOWING

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ENTRY INTO JAPAN WITHOUT PASSPORTS.

2. JUSTICE MINISTRY SO FAR IS TAKING MORE CAUTIOUS, LESS FLEXIBLE APPROACH. PRESS QUOTES JUSTICE SOURCES AS NOTING THAT GOVT OF STABLE COUNTRY, LIKE DPRK, AND GROUPS AT WAR WITH COUNTRIES WHICH GOJ RECOGNIZES, CAN HARDLY BE TREATED IN SAME MANNER.

3. GVN EMBASSY INFORMED US THEY MADE SEVERAL APPROACHES RECENTLY TO FONOFF WITH RESPECT TO PRG TEAM. THUS FAR, FONOFF HAS RESPONDED THAT FORMAL REQUEST FOR ENTRY NOT YET RECEIVED AND THEREFORE IT WAS PREMATURE TO DISCUSS QUESTION.

4. COMMENT: AS EMBASSY HAS REPORTED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, GOJ MAKES DISTINCTION BETWEEN PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH QTE NON-GOVERNMENTS UNQTE OR THEIR OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES (MOST RECENT CASE BEING ISSUE OF PRG AND AFRICAN LIBERATION REPS AT GENEVA LOW CONFERENCE) AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS FROM SUCH AREAS WHO MAY WISH TO ENTER JAPAN FOR REASONS OF TRADE, SPORTS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES, ETC. GOJ HAS TREATED LATTER CATEGORY WITH SYMPATHY AND FLEXIBILITY, PARTLY BECAUSE TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD AROUSE STORM OF PROTEST FROM POLITICAL OPPOSITION. OBVIOUSLY, GOJ IS PREPARING TO BE CONSISTENT WITH PAST PRACTICE IN PROCESSING VISA APPLICATIONS FROM TABLE-TENNIS TEAMS. WHILE THIS PROBABLE DECISION IS NOT CONGENIAL TO USG POLICY ON PRG AND GRUNK, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE NOT ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE IN SITUATION OF MARGINAL IMPORTANCE FOR US INTERESTS BUT GREAT POLITICAL SENSITIVITY FOR JAPANESE. WE BELIEVE ANY ATTEMPT TO DO SO WOULD FAIL, AND PROBABLY COMPROMISE FUTURE CASES WHEN A MORE SERIOUS BREACH IS THREATENING OUR STAND AGAINST PRG AND GRUNK LEGITIMACY.
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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Executive Order: GS
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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